



**Press release, Friday, 13 August 2010**  
**Health sector challenges not a license to corruption**

Health officials should shun corruption and do their work diligently despite challenges they might face.

This comes amid reports that expectant mothers at Nyamongo village in Tarime District are complaining over corrupt practices shrouding services at Sungusungu Health Centre at the village. In response to the allegations, the medical officer in-charge of the health centre highlighted that the center is facing staff shortage problem.

Corruption seems to have become a common practice in public health services. This impression is supported by a snap survey conducted by Sikika in 2007, which covered all districts of Kibaha and Dar es Salaam. It revealed that 21 percent of the 364 interviewed health workers have been involved in corrupt behavior.

Corruption reduces the resources that should be effectively available for patients. It lowers the quality, equity and effectiveness of health care services, decreases the volume and increases the costs. It discourages people to use and pay for health services and ultimately has a corrosive impact on the population's level of health.

Sikika takes this opportunity to remind health workers that it is against medical ethics to be involved in corrupt activities as it disadvantages those who do not have the means. Also, citizens should not hesitate to report to the responsible authorities whenever they come across such situations.

Sikika reminds the government to find a long-lasting solution for the problem of corruption in health institutions that citizens are witnessing especially in rural areas. Sikika is also appealing to the government not to leave tables unturned to those involved in such despicable behaviour and punish them accordingly.

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